MARVEL

THE ULTIMATES

5

CAMP | FRIGERI | BLEE

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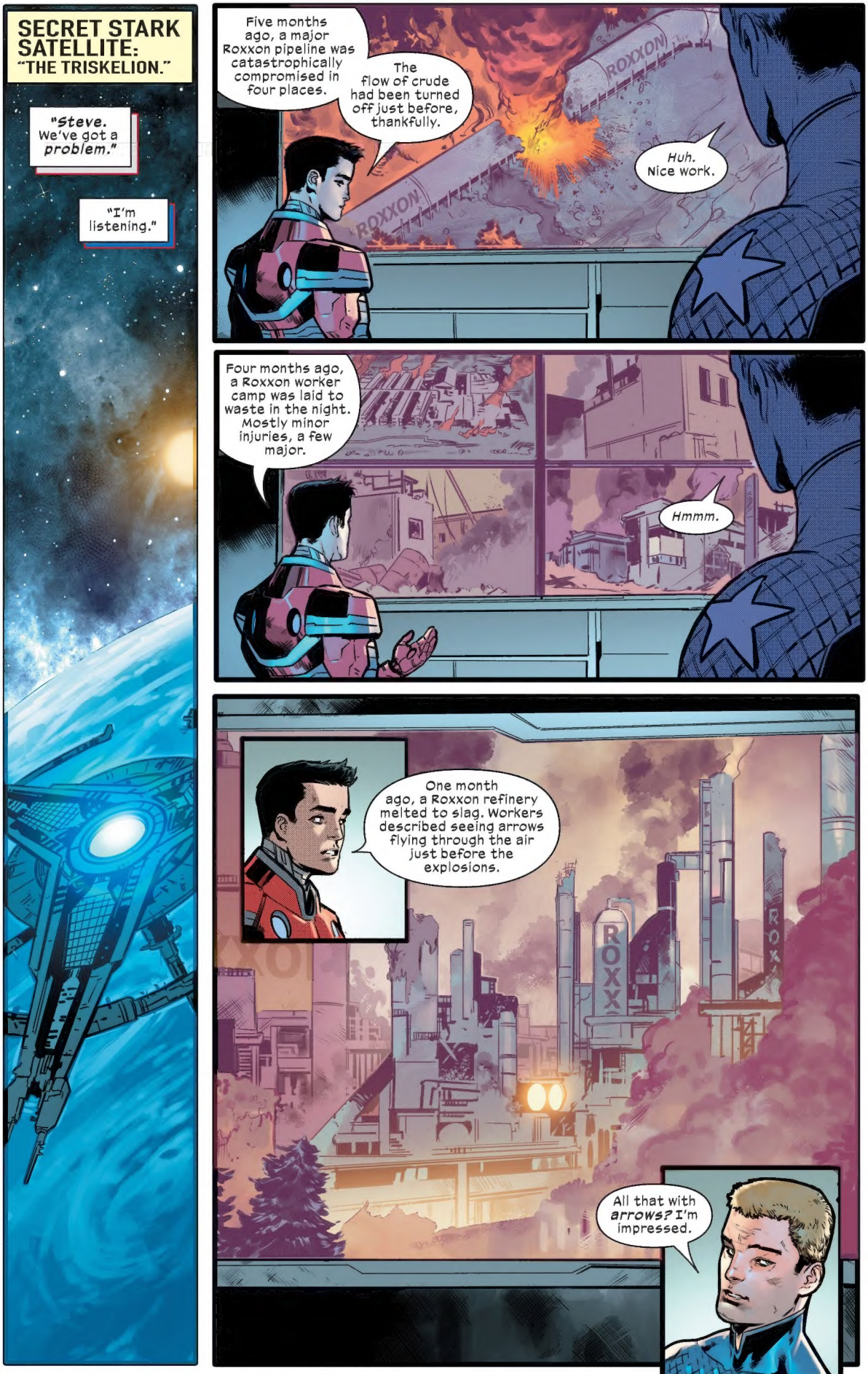
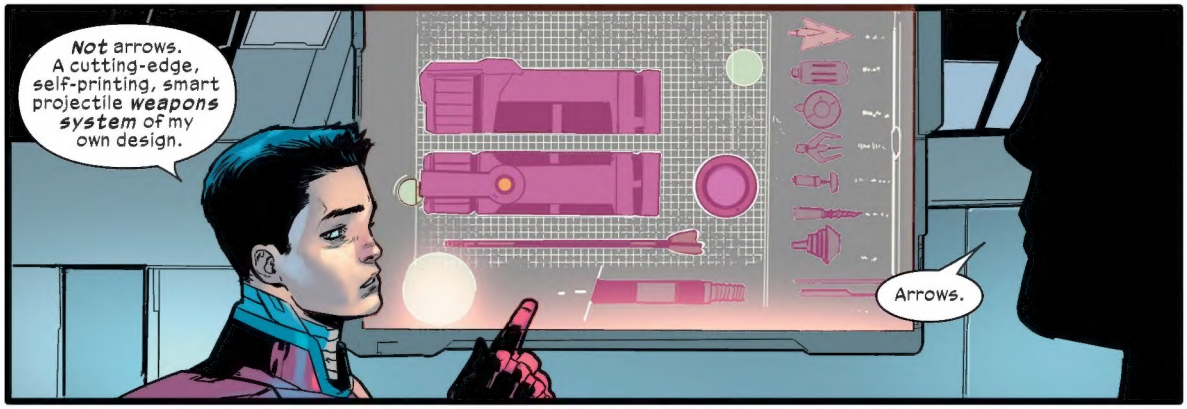
"Upon suffering beyond suffering, the Red Nation shall rise again. And it shall be a blessing for a sick world. A world filled with broken promises, selfishness and separations. A world longing for light again. I see a time of seven generations, when all the colors of mankind will gather under the sacred tree of life and the whole earth will become one circle again."

—TȞAŠÚŊKE WITKÓ "CRAZY HORSE"

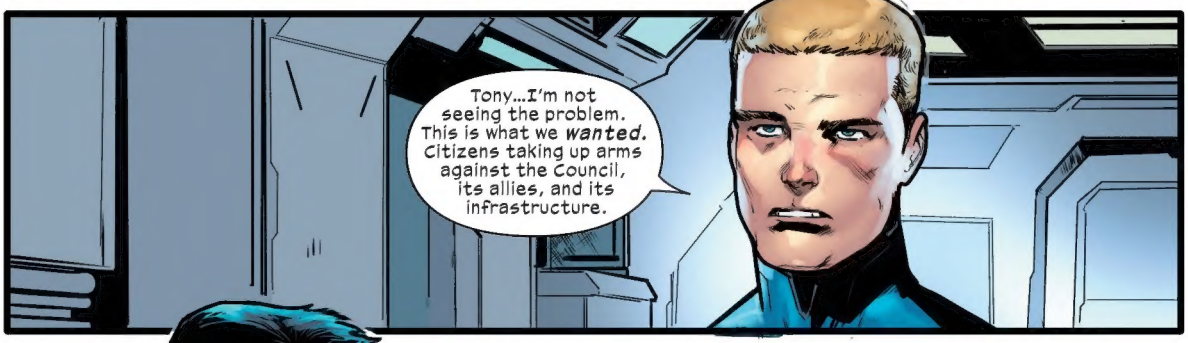
"I don't go so far as to think that the only good Indian is the dead Indian, but I believe nine out of every ten are, and I shouldn't like to inquire too closely into the case of the tenth."

—THEODORE "TEDDY" ROOSEVELT
26th President of the United States


SECRET STARK SATELLITE: "THE TRISKELION."
"Steve. We've got a problem."
"I'm listening."
Five months ago, a major Roxxon pipeline was catastrophically compromised in four places.
The flow of crude had been turned off just before, thankfully.
ROXXON
ROXXON
Huh. Nice work.
Four months ago, a Roxxon worker camp was laid to waste in the night. Mostly minor injuries, a few major.
Hmmm.
One month ago, a Roxxon refinery melted to slag. Workers described seeing arrows flying through the air just before the explosions.
ROXX
All that with arrows? I'm impressed.


Not arrows. A cutting-edge, self-printing, smart projectile ***weapons system*** of my own design.
Arrows.

Look, Steve: *I took a shot.* But the man who was ***supposed*** to be the hero Hawkeye ***rejected*** our offer--
Threw it in a trash can, you mean.
--and a random passerby *picked it up.*


Tony...I'm not seeing the problem. This is what we ***wanted.*** Citizens taking up arms against the Council, its allies, and its infrastructure.

Between running operations, Gamma Island reclamation, and repairing the Human Torch, I've been ***swamped***--but I finally had a chance to run this person's ***numbers.***
It doesn't look ***good,*** Steve. Their heroism score was in the ***bottom tenth percentile.*** And on the villain-potential index...

Some things aren't ***captured*** in numbers, Tony. I thought you'd learned that after what happened ***last*** time...
That's exactly why we have to get these weapons back. I--I can't be responsible for any more unnecessary death. I ***can't,*** Steve.

We're talking about *arrows,* Tony.
Yes, Steve--arrows that can follow a target *forty miles,* cutting right angles at three times the speed of *sound.*
Arrows that can blow holes in battleships and fry every electronic device for two hundred yards.
A properly trained man could take an *army* with those "arrows."
Please, Steve. America is on a mission in Eurasia, Giant-Man and Wasp are following a lead on another trapped hero, Thor and Sif are...well, I don't know *where* they are...
...She-Hulk will only leave her island for direct strikes against the Council or rescue missions, and *Doom...* Doom is Doom.
I need your *help.*
I took a *shot,* Steve. I took a shot and I *missed.*
Sigh I'll take care of it.

WRITER: **DENIZ CAMP**
ARTIST: **JUAN FRIGERI**
COLOR ARTIST: **FEDERICO BLEE**

LETTERER: **VC's TRAVIS LANHAM**
COVER ARTISTS: **DIKE RUAN & NEERAJ MENON**
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS: **INHYUK LEE; GEOFF SHAW & FEDERICO BLEE; PAULO SIQUEIRA & RACHELLE ROSENBERG**
CONSULTANT: **SARAH CLARK**

DESIGN: **JAY BOWEN**
ASSISTANT EDITOR: **MICHELLE MARCHESE**
EDITOR: **WIL MOSS**
EDITOR IN CHIEF: **C.B. CEBULSKI**

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ROXXON REFINERY 15.
1.5 MILES FROM THE MISSOURI RIVER.
So they sent a cowboy, huh?
REPULSOR ARROW.

Charli Ramsey? You know why I'm here?
You're one of those Ultimates, so...I dunno, to blow up a *school* or something?
No. I think you know we don't do that.
Besides, blowing things up seems to be *your* thing.

Draw, cowboy!
FFFTTT
I'm a captain, actually. Captain A--
Naw, you a cowboy. Gary Cooper-lookin' [redacted]. And I'm the Indian.
Know what that makes us?
KABOOOM
Sure. I get the reference.

Fabricating...
I know *all* about cowboys.
My dad used to *love* those old movies. I seen 'em all. And they were all the *same.*
Cowboys killing Indians, cowboys killing Indians.
FFFFTTT
SONIC "SCREAMER" ARROW.
Everybody cheers.
But I loved 'em too. It's [redacted] up, but *I loved them too.*

Stop! I didn't come here to *fight* you. I just need those *weapons* back. They're *dangerous*. And you can't be older than *sixteen*.
How old were *you* when you put on that suit? Took a *stand*?
What do you know about this suit? Or what it *stands* for?
Different things, I guess, for you and me.

So, what? You get to be a hero. Tony Stark gets to be a hero.
The guy who threw all this stuff away, he gets to be a hero.
But me... I don't meet the criteria? I fail a test or something?
We always fail their tests. The math never works out in our favor.

You know what they do? These "Roxxon Energy Partners"?
CLUSTER-BOMB ARROW.
They do whatever they want.
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOOOOM

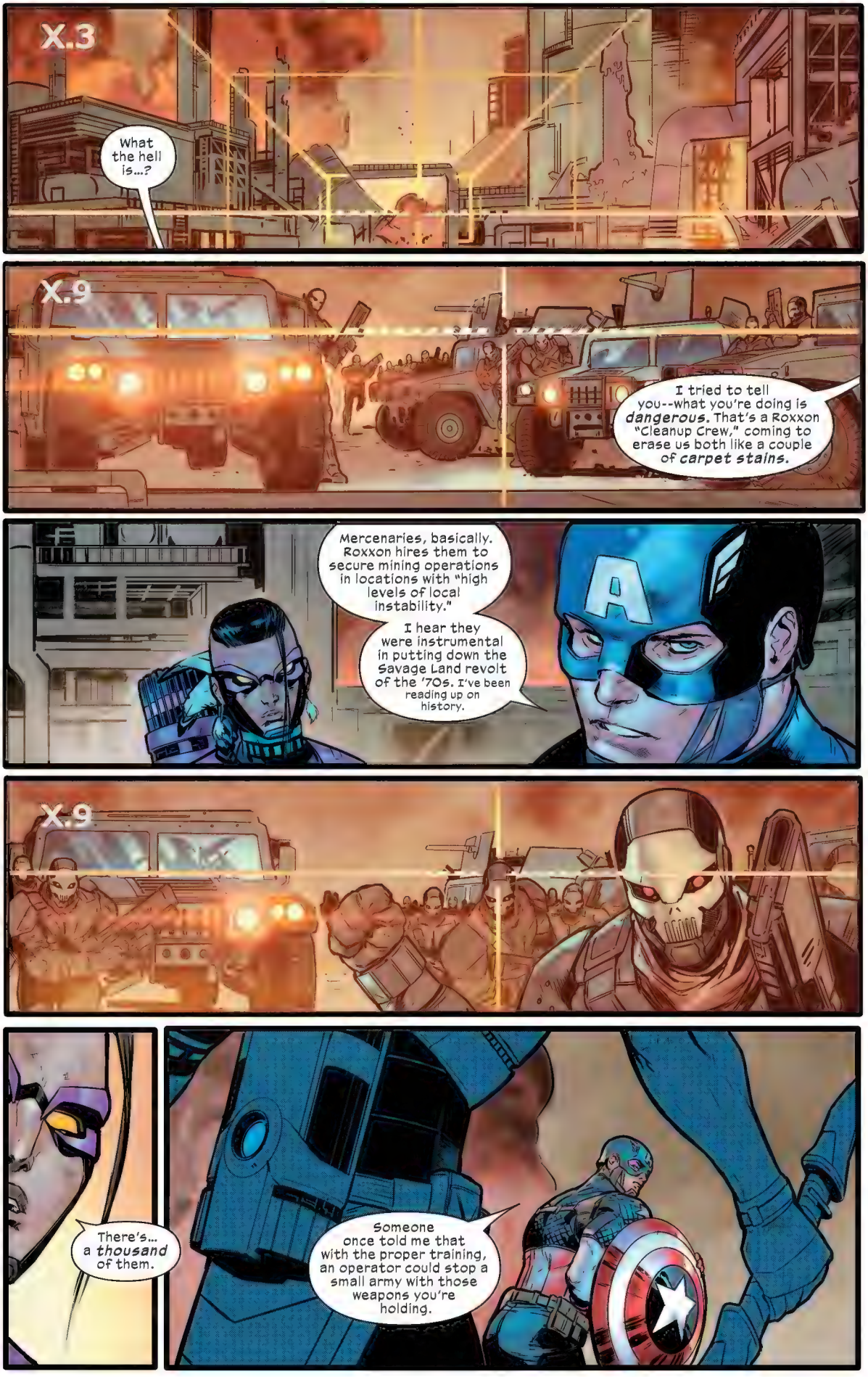
They flood the plains, they dig up our sacred ground, they foul the water.
KNOCKOUT–GAS ARROW.
FREEZE ARROW.
ACID ARROW.
They build these...these refineries and pipelines, like the Great Black Snake our stories say will end everything. They take the whole world hostage...
And when we protest--when we stand up--they kill us, or throw us in jail, or force us from our land.

And so, yeah, we have to fight. We have to.
Roxxon, the North American Union, the United States of America. It's all the same [redacted]--Cowboys and Indians.
Trust me: Those weapons--this life--it's a burden. You don't have to take it on.
I do. I had a vision.
It was meant for me.
INERTIA-CANCELING ARROW.
THONK
I saw the boy in the light! I heard what he said! "Protect the innocent, save lives, and inspire the citizens of the world to be their best selves."
I had the vision.
That was just Tony. And he was talking to someone else, a potential hero named--
I know!

I am a member of the Oglala band of the Lakota Nation! My government name is Charli Ramsey, but my spirit name--my true name--is Charli Hawks Eyes.
INDUSTRIAL–TASER ARROW.
You see? It was meant for me!
Arrghhhhh!
You can't take it. I won't let you.

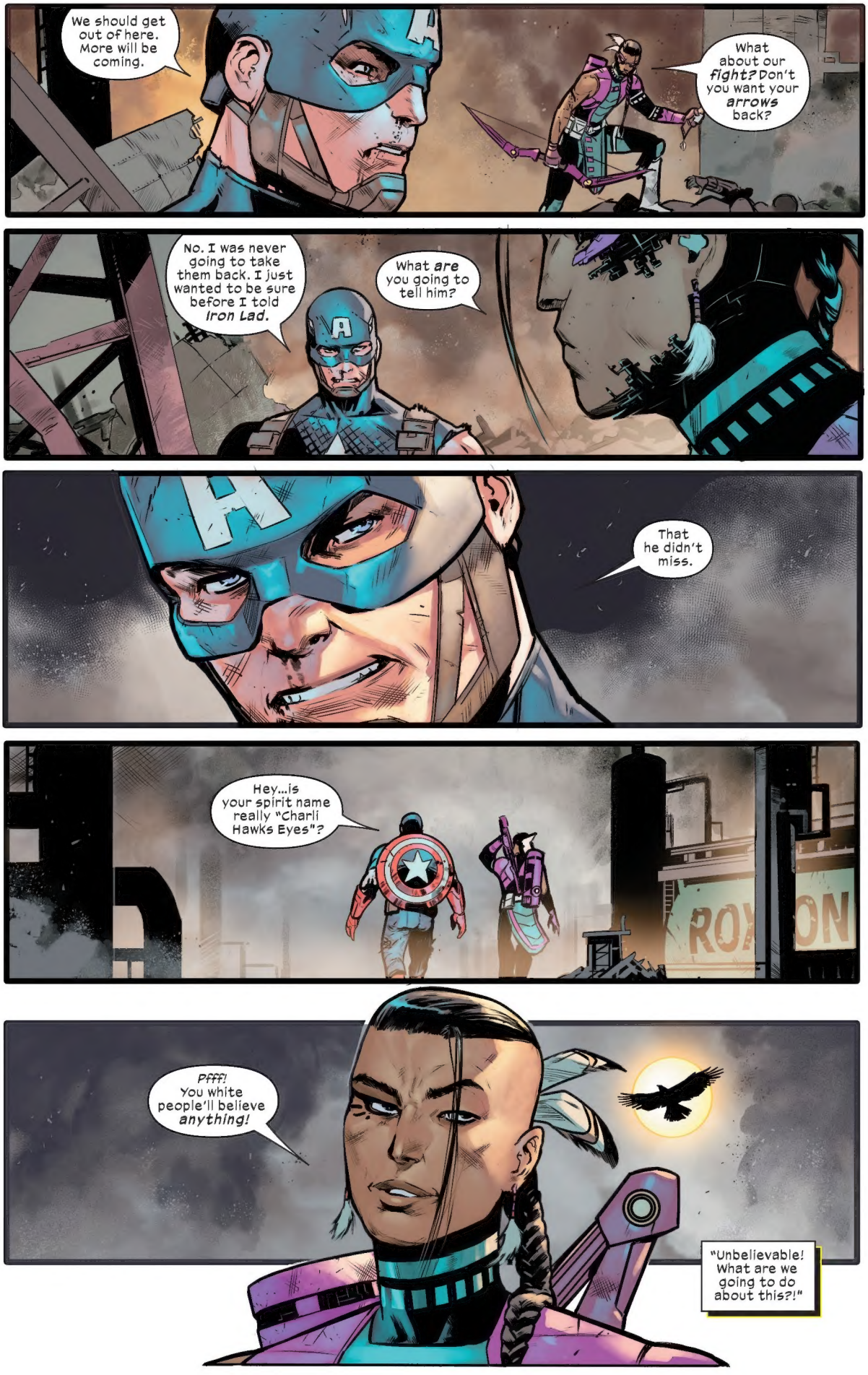
RAZOR ARROW.
The ones who made this world...they didn't make it for people like me.
NEURAL–DISRUPTOR ARROW.
So sometimes you see something--an old movie, or a vision, or...or a symbol--and even though it wasn't made for you, you make it yours anyway.
Ready
Because if you don't, how else are you going to be anything in this world they made?
I'm not stupid. I've seen Star Wars. I know it wasn't a spirit or something. Just some arrogant kid. But it was my vision because I decided it was.
HUNTER/KILLER ARROW.

Visions aren't about the messenger. Or even the *message.*
They're about the *receiver.*
SNAP
Enough!
I don't care if I had to dig my destiny out of a dumpster. It's still *mine.*
CRUNCH
Ugh!
RRUMMMBLLEEE
Hrrr. Just like the movies. Cowboy wins. Indian dies.
Everybody cheers.
No one's dying. And that's not cheering. Get up and use those *eyes.*


X.3
What the hell is...?
X.9
I tried to tell you--what you're doing is *dangerous*. That's a Roxxon "Cleanup Crew," coming to erase us both like a couple of *carpet stains*.
Mercenaries, basically. Roxxon hires them to secure mining operations in locations with "high levels of local instability."
I hear they were instrumental in putting down the Savage Land revolt of the '70s. I've been reading up on history.
X.9
There's... a *thousand* of them.
Someone once told me that with the proper training, an operator could stop a small army with those weapons you're holding.

"So I hope you've been *practicing.*"

ROXXO
Not bad, *Hawkeye.* Not bad at all.


We should get out of here. More will be coming.
What about our *fight?* Don't you want your *arrows* back?
No. I was never going to take them back. I just wanted to be sure before I told *Iron Lad.*
What *are* you going to tell him?
That he didn't miss.
Hey...is your spirit name really "Charli Hawks Eyes"?
Pfff! You white people'll believe *anything!*
"Unbelievable! What are we going to do about this?!"

I didn't mind so much that they broke the neck of that solid-gold [redacted], Midas. In fact, I thought it was quite *funny*.
But now they're affecting *my* bottom line, Banner. And I can't have that. Roxxon is a *vital* part of my portfolio.
Calm down, Da Costa. You agreed to defer to me in this. *Do you doubt my strong and steady hand?*
N-no. I--
I have *studied* these Ultimates guerrillas. Their *strengths*. Their *weaknesses*. Their disharmonious ideas.
They utilize advanced *Stark stealth technology*. Their true identities are closely held secrets. If we crush two or three, the others will go to ground and gather strength in the shadows.
The Ultimates operate as an *insurgency*. You can't destroy an insurgency piece by piece.
So what do you propose?
Very simple. I'm going to kill them *all at once*.
THIRTEEN MONTHS REMAINING...